

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 042876 TOSEC 040199

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MO, AG, US

SUBJECT: MISSION OF SYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON SPANISH
SAHARA

1. YOU SHOULD APPROACH WALDHEIM AND CONVEY FOLLOWING TO
HIM.

2. FOR THE SYG'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, THE SECRETARY
HAS ASKED ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON TO VISIT MOROCCO
AND ALGERIA THIS WEEK. REASON FOR THIS TRIP IS THAT UNDER
SECRETARY ROBINSON WILL BE VISITING ALGERIA FOR A LONG-
SCHEDULED DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS, AND WE
HAVE HAD INDICATIONS THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ALSO WANTS
TO DISCUSS OTHER ASPECTS OF SITUATION IN AREA, INCLUDING
SAHARA QUESTION.

3. IN VIEW OF THIS, SECRETARY HAS ASKED ATHERTON TO BE
IN ALGERIA DURING ROBINSON'S VISIT AND ALSO TO VISIT
RABAT FOR GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL
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INTEREST, AMONG WHICH WE EXPECT THAT SAHARA QUESTION WILL

BE INCLUDED. ATHERTON'S VISIT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE ANY INTENTION FOR USG TO UNDERTAKE MEDIATORY ROLE.

3. IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL, HOWEVER, AS BACKGROUND FOR

THESE TALKS TO HAVE WHATEVER INFORMATION SYG CAN CONFIDE TO US ABOUT THE RECENT VISIT OF HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR RYDBECK, TO THE AREA -- IN PARTICULAR ANY INDICATIONS THERE MAY BE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA ON THE SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE AND ANY IDEAS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY RYDBECK IN THIS REGARD.

4. ATHERTON WILL BE LEAVING TUESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 24, AND WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE ANYTHING THE SYG CAN PASS TO US BEFORE THAT TIME. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT WALDHEIM AND URQUHART ARE NOT DUE BACK IN NEW YORK UNTIL MONDAY AFTERNOON, WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER YOU SHOULD APPROACH BUFFUM IF TIME DOES NOT PERMIT APPROACH TO SYG AND/OR URQUHART. IN EITHER EVENT, PENDING CONFIRMATION FROM ALGERIA AND RABAT THAT ATHERTON VISIT IS AGREEABLE TO THEM, YOU SHOULD STRESS CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONTINGENCY NATURE OF THIS APPROACH. EAGLEBURGER

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